

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 30, 37, and 38 and add new claim 42 as follows.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A network, comprising:

a controller configured to communicate with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, wherein the channels operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, and, in response to an initiation of a call with a second network, configured to initiate a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

24. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 23 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

25. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 24 wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

26. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 24 wherein the controller is responsive to the initiation of the call with the second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

27. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 23, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

28. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 23, wherein the controller is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

29. (Previously Presented) A network according to claim 23, wherein the change of data rate of a transmitted channel is performed for a connection between subscribers within the network.

30. (Currently Amended) A controller configured to operate in a network, the controller comprising:

a responding unit configured to respond to an initiation of a call with a second network, wherein the network communicates with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, the channels configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate,~~the controller comprising:~~

~~means for responding to an initiation of a call with a second network;~~ and

~~means for initiating~~an initiating unit configured to initiate a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

31. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 30 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

32. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 31 wherein the channels are operable at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

33. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 31 wherein the controller is responsive to the initiation of a channel with the second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from

the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

34. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 30, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

35. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 30, wherein the controller is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

36. (Previously Presented) A controller according to claim 30 wherein the change of data rate of a transmitted channel is performed for a connection between subscribers within the network.

37. (Currently Amended) A radiotelephone configured to operate with a network which initiates a change in a data rate of a channel from a first data rate to a second data rate in response to an initiation of a call between the network and ~~with a~~ second network, the radiotelephone comprising:

a controller, ~~responsive~~ in response to a signal from the network, configured to change for changing the data rate of data being transmitted through the channel of the radiotelephone.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating through a network with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, comprising:

operating the channels at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

changing a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate in response to an initiation of a call with a second network.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating a the second data rate.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38, further comprising in response to the predetermined condition initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

42. (New) A controller configured to operate in a network, the controller comprising:

means for responding to an initiation of a call with a second network, wherein the network communicates with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, the channels configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

means for initiating a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.